

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STRASB 00083 151645Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1158
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INFO AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
ANCONSUL LYON 0025
AMCONSUL NICE

UNCLAS STRASBOURG 83

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, FR.
SUBJECT: FRENCH LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS - RESULTS OF THE FIRST
ROUND IN EASTERN FRANCE

REF: A) STRASBOURG 35 B) STRASBOURG 79

1. SUMMARY - AS SEEMS TO BE THE CASE NATIONWIDE, THOSE SUPPORTING
THE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN HEARTENED BY THEIR SHOWING IN THE FIRST
ROUND. THE LEFT MISSED ACHIEVING ITS EXPECTED MOMENTUM, EXCEPT
FOR A BUOYANT PS VOTE IN LORRAINE, WHERE THE LEFT CAN MAKE SOME
GAINS OVER 1973 IF WHOLEHEARTED LEFTIST COOPERATION IN THE
SECOND ROUND IS ACHIEVED. END SUMMARY.

2. SEATS WON AND IMPORTANT CANDIDATES ELIMINATED IN FIRST ROUND -

THERE WERE NO SURPRISES AMONG THE SEATS DECIDED ON THE FIRST
ROUND:

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT EDGAR FAURE, RPR, DOUBS
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FORMER PRIME MINISTER PIERRE MESSMER, RPR, MOSELLE
EDUCATION MINISTER RENE HABY, PR, MEURTHE-ET-MOSELLE
FRANCOIS GRUSSENMEYER, RPR, BAS-RHIN
GERMAIN MULLER, RPR, BAS-RHIN
ADRIEN ZELLER, IND.-UDF, BAS-RHIN

AMONG SOME OF THE MORE INTERESTING NAMES ELIMINATED IN THE FIRST

ROUND ARE:

STATE SECRETARY FOR UNIVERSITIES ALICE SAUNIER-SEITE IN METZ II,
AND ROBERT GROSSMAN, PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS MINISTER ANDRE BORD S
HAND-PICKED CANDIDATE FOR STRASBOURG I.

3. GENERAL TRENDS BY REGION -

A) ALSACE - THE PS VOTE FELL NEARLY 6% SHORT OF THE TOTAL GIVEN
THEM IN THE LAST MAJOR REGIONAL POLL REPORTED REFTEL B (BUT STILL
7% ABOVE THEIR 1973 SCORE). THE RPR FINISHED WITH 4% LESS THAN
EXPECTED, AND THE UDF (READ CENTRISTS) DID 10% BETTER IN AN
UNEXPECTEDLY STRONG SHOWING. TEN CONTESTS REMAIN TO BE DECIDED
ON THE SECOND ROUND. THERE WILL BE 5 RPR - PS CONTESTS AND
5 UDF - PS. THE OUTLOOK IS FOR A MAJORITE SWEEP, ALTHOUGH
ANDRE BORD FACES A STRONG PS CHALLENGE. (BORD HAS LOST A GOOD
DEAL OF FACE BECAUSE FOUR OF HIS HAND-PICKED RPR CANDIDATES
WERE TROUNCED BY THE CDS.)

B) LORRAINE - AS WAS EXPECTED BECAUSE OF DEPRESSED ECONOMIC
CONDITIONS, THE LEFT, PARTICULARLY THE PS, GAVE A GOOD ACCOUNT
OF ITSELF. IN NANCY (ALL 3 SEATS), METZ I, ST. DIE AND POSSIBLY
EPINAL PS CANDIDATES WILL POSE A STRONG CHALLENGE IN THE SECOND
ROUND, ASSUMING THAT THE COMMUNISTS GIVE THEM WHOLEHEARTED
SUPPORT. STATE SECRETARY FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE CLAUDE
COULAIS IS IN TROUBLE IN NANCY II, AND JEAN-JACQUES SERVAN-SCHREIBER
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MODERATELY SO IN HIS NANCY I DISTRICT. IN BOTH THESE DISTRICTS
THE LEFT OUTSCORED THE MAJORITE. OF THE 21 LORRAINE SEATS, THE
PC PRESENTLY HOLDS TWO AND THE PS ONE. THE OUTLOOK IS FOR
MINIMUM GAINS OF PC-ONE AND PS-TWO IN THAT REGION.

C) FRANCHE-COMTE (THREE OF FOUR DEPARTMENTS) - IN BELFORT,
JEAN-PIERRE CHEVENEMENT, PS CERES LEADER, AND RAYMOND FORNI, PS,
SHOULD EMERGE VICTORIOUS IN THE 2ND ROUND. CLOSE PS-RPR RACES
LOOM IN BESANCON AND MONTBELIARD, BUT NO CHANGE IS EXPECTED IN
PRESENT TOTAL OF ONE SEAT FOR EACH PARTY.

D) HAUTE-MARNE DEPARTMENT - NO PROBLEM EXPECTED FOR THE RPR
TO RETAIN ITS TWO SEATS.

4. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEAT TOTALS FOR CONSULAR DISTRICT:

1973 - MAJORITE 37

LEFT 6

1978 - FIRST ROUND: MAJORITE 6

PLUS LIKELY SECOND ROUND RESULTS: MAJORITE 26

LEFT 9

TOO CLOSE TO CALL 2

THIS AMOUNTS TO A POSSIBLE GAIN OF AT LEAST THREE SEATS FOR
THE LEFT.KURZE

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Message Attributes

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